Agreement with UNDP

760. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have recently signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme to launch a new brand of tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the UNDP has agreed to provide funds for tourism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which it is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government of India and United Nations Development Programme have signed an agreement for the development of endogenous tourism. Under this UNDP has agreed for grant of a sum of US$ 1.8 million for development of endogenous tourism.

Development of Dholavira as a tourist spot

761. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to develop Dholavira, ancient site in Gujarat, as a major centre for tourism and archaeological research;

(b) whether the site would also be brought on the world map to attract foreign tourists;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard; and

(d) by when it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government have taken concrete steps to develop the ancient site at Dholavira (Gujarat) as a major centre for tourism and

archaeological research. The site has been brought under central protection in August, 2003; the excavation together with training programme as well as simultaneous conservation has been resumed; and an archaeological complex consisting of an orientation centre, an audience hall, a cafeteria, a field office and lodging accommodation in a garden setting is nearing completion; telephone connection has been provided; better power supply is ensured, besides the construction of a tourism complex by the Gujarat State Government. Furthermore, Dholavira has already started appearing on the world map due to the immense significance of its archaeological heritage of the Harappan civilization. However, different items of work of research and development are to be an ongoing process.

Display of Nizam's jewels

762. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Central Government to display Nizam's Jewels in Hyderabad permanently; and

(b) if so, by when the matter would be finalised and decide the location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh *vide* his letter dated 3rd July, 2003 has suggested that the jewels may be displayed permanently at Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, where a Gems and Jewellery Park is being set up by the State Government.

A final decision on permanent display of these jewels and its probable location can be taken only after safety and security aspects of the jewels as also the expenditure involved are thoroughly examined in consultation with all authorities concerned.

Pilgrimages in Uttaranchal under ASI

†763. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.